

VETO OF HOUSE BILL.

March 25, 1885.¹⁷

To the House of Representatives:

I have given substitute House bill No. 188 a careful consideration.

This bill is one creating a private corporation, and there are two serious objections to the bill, and one that is fatal to it as a law, even with the approval of the Executive. It has never been the policy of this country to authorize private corporations to purchase, own or hold real estate beyond what was necessary for the proper and legitimate use of such corporations in conducting and operating their business, and the power delegated to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter in this bill to purchase, own and hold real estate without limitation, appears to be in violation of sound public policy.

It has been in all ages regarded as a dangerous practice, and one that I believe should not exist. Again, this bill attempts to lay down rules to govern the relations between subordinate chapters of Royal Arch Masons and the grand body.

These institutions are supposed to have laws and rules of their own, and it would seem that so soon as the State undertakes to interfere with this long established code that the order would cease to exist.

But the objection to the bill as being in violation of the plain letter of the Constitution cannot be overcome.

Article 12, section 1, reads: "No private corporation shall be created except by general laws." Section 2, same article, reads: "General laws shall be enacted providing for the creation of private corporations, and shall therein provide fully for the adequate protection of the public, and of the individual stockholders."

We have on our statute books a complete general law—by which all institutions therein named may become incorporated. But if the Legislature had neglected this duty, it would not be competent to pass such an act as the one under consideration.

The constitutional provision quoted is imperative, and beyond construction, and I am constrained to return the bill without my approval.

JOHN IRELAND, Governor.

¹⁷*House Journal*, 398.